OJJDP

Enhancing safety. Ensuring accountability. Empowering youth.

JUVENILE JUSTICE
BULLETIN

December 2020

Caren Harp, Administrator

Juvenile Violent Victimization, 1995–2018

Keith Hullenaar and R. Barry Ruback

Highlights

This bulletin uses three different data sources to examine juvenile violent victimization from 1995 to 2018. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention funded this analysis to provide practitioners and researchers with recent information about the characteristics of both juvenile victims and juvenile victimizations, and how these variables change over time.

- Overall, and for all racial groups, the rate of violent victimization for juveniles has declined since 1995 but did not change from 2015 to 2018.

- The percentage of violent victimizations for juveniles (ages 12–17) reported to the police has remained steady at about 25 percent since 2013.

- In 2018, for juveniles ages 12 to 17, non-Hispanic whites had a higher violent victimization rate than Hispanics. The rate for non-Hispanic blacks did not differ from the rates of these two racial groups.

- Juveniles ages 12 to 17 were most likely to be victimized by someone they knew (54 percent), and were less likely than young adults (ages 18 to 29) and adults (age 30 or older) to be victimized by a stranger.

- Homicides against non-Hispanic black juveniles increased from 2015 to 2017. Additionally, compared to all other racial groups, non-Hispanic black juveniles had the highest homicide rates in 2017.

Juvenile Violent Victimization, 1995–2018

Keith Hullenaar and R. Barry Ruback

In 2018, the rate of violent crime against juveniles was 33.8 victimizations per 1,000,[1] which represents an 80-percent decline from 1995 (172.6 victimizations per 1,000) to 2018 (figure 1).[2] This rate did not change from 2015 to 2018. In this bulletin, juveniles are individuals ages 12 to 17, unless stated otherwise.

From 1995 to 2018, the rate of violent crime against juveniles declined at a rate similar to that against young adults, and declined faster than the rate against adults. The rate of violent crime against young adults (ages 18 to 29) declined 74 percent during this period, from 126.4 victimizations per 1,000 to 33.3 victimizations per 1,000. In contrast, the rate of violent crime against adults (age 30 or older) declined 61 percent during this period, from 44.8 victimizations per 1,000 to 17.3 victimizations per 1,000.

From 1995 to 2004, the rate of violent crime against juveniles was higher than the rate of violent crime against young adults and adults. Age differences in violent victimization rates have been smaller since 2004; in 2018, the rate of violent crime against juveniles was similar to the rate of violent crime against young adults (33.3 victimizations per 1,000). Juveniles had higher violent victimization rates than adults during the entire 1995 to 2018 period.

Age Groups and Ranges

Age group	Age range
Juvenile	12 to 17 (NCVS) 17 or younger (NIBRS; NVSS)
Young adult	18 to 29
Adult	30 or older

NCVS = National Crime Victimization Survey
NIBRS = National Incident-Based Reporting System
NVSS = National Vital Statistics System

Figure 1. Violent Crime Victimization Against Juveniles (12–17), Young Adults (18–20), and Adults (30 or Older)
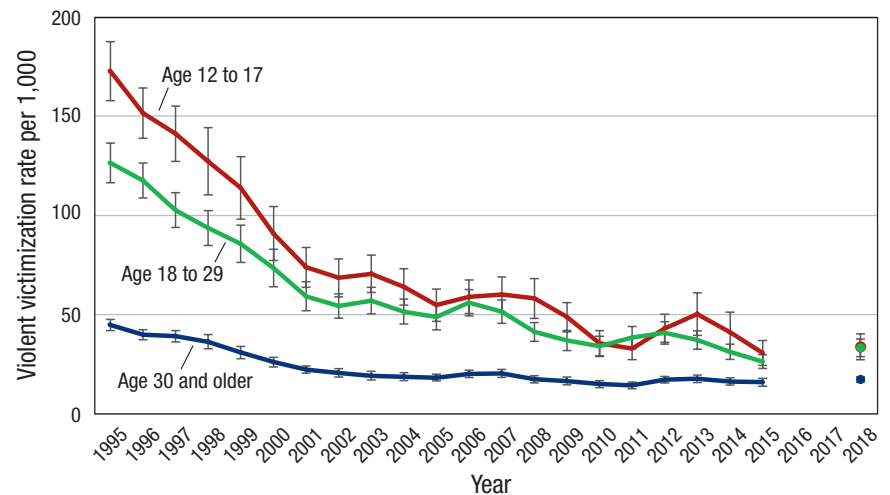
Note: Data based on 2-year rolling averages starting in 1994. Estimates for 2016 and 2017 are omitted due to changes in the 2016 collection year's sampling procedures that prevent year-to-year comparisons. Data for 2018 are the 2-year average for 2017 and 2018.
Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, 1994–2018.

METHODOLOGY

This bulletin uses three datasets. A description of each dataset follows.

National Crime Victimization Survey

The first dataset is from the Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and contains violent victimizations that occurred from 1994 to 2018.[1] NCVS surveys U.S. households and collects information on nonfatal victimizations reported and not reported to the police against persons age 12 or older. Once selected, households remain in the sample for 3½ years, and eligible persons in these households are interviewed every 6 months (either in person or by phone) for a total of seven interviews. NCVS provides one of the leading nationally representative data sources on victimization in the United States.

The NCVS allows a proxy respondent to answer questions for a household member when the household member is 12 or 13 years old and not allowed by the parents to take the survey, the household member is temporarily absent and will not return before the last day of the survey period, or if the household member is physically or mentally incapacitated. In the case of juveniles, particularly younger juveniles, this proxy respondent (usually a parent) may not be aware of a crime incident and may not know the complete details of reported incidents. About 31 percent of interviews involving juveniles ages 12 to 14 and 13 percent of interviews involving juveniles ages 15 to 17 had a proxy respondent in 2018. Another issue regarding the interview of a juvenile is that parents or others might be present during the interview, and their presence might affect victimization reporting rates. In 2018, other people in the household were present in 84 percent of interviews with juveniles ages 12 to 14 and 81 percent of interviews with juveniles ages 15 to 17.

This bulletin uses NCVS data to estimate victimization rates and the frequency distributions of violent victimizations in the United States. Victimization rates measure the extent to which violent victimizations occur in a specified population during a specified time. For crimes affecting persons, NCVS victimization rates are estimated by dividing the number of victimizations that occurred during a specified time period (e.g., 1994 and 1995) by the population at risk for those victimizations and multiplying the rate by 1,000. Frequency distributions measure the proportion of victimizations with certain attributes (e.g., proportion of violent victimizations involving a female victim). This bulletin uses 2-year rolling averages, starting with 1994 (1994 and 1995 = 1995's estimate), to reduce statistical error.

National Incident-Based Reporting System

The second dataset contains victims of violence recorded by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in 2016.[2] NIBRS provides details on crime incidents known to the police and recorded by the FBI. An incident is defined as one or more offenses committed by the same offender, or group of offenders acting in concert, at the same time and place. This report used the victim-level extract file, in which each case represents one victim in a violent criminal incident. Local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies voluntarily send incident reports to NIBRS. In 2016, NIBRS had been implemented in all or part of 38 states, representing 31 percent of the nation's population. NIBRS data provided frequency distributions of violent victimizations. This bulletin did not use 2-year rolling averages for NIBRS estimates.

National Vital Statistics System

The third dataset is from the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS), which is maintained by the National Center for Health Statistics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). NVSS provides fatal injury reports based on U.S. death certificates that indicated homicide.[3] Each year, a very small number of deaths remain without a manner of death or may be missing from NVSS. Fatal injury reports are published annually and are available for public use from the CDC website as part of NVSS. This report uses NVSS data to estimate homicide rates against juveniles in the United States. NVSS homicide victimization rates are estimated by dividing the number of juvenile homicides that occurred during a specified time period (e.g., 2016 and 2017) by the juvenile population at risk for those homicides and multiplying the rate by 100,000. This bulletin uses 2-year rolling averages to reduce the statistical error of the NVSS estimates.

Notes

1. The NCVS file used for this bulletin is available at the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR37322.v1).

2. The 2016 NIBRS victim-level extract file is available at the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR37066.v1).

3. NVSS data for 1999 to 2017 were taken from the Multiple Cause of Death File 1999–2018, Series 20, No. 2J, 2007 (https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html).

Trends in Juvenile Violent Victimization

Juveniles had higher simple assault victimization rates than young adults and adults in 1995, 2015, and 2018 (table 1). The rate of simple assaults against juveniles declined 80 percent from 1995 (120.6 victimizations per 1,000 juveniles) to 2018 (23.6 victimizations per 1,000 juveniles). In all three time periods, juveniles ages 12 to 14 had higher rates of simple assault victimization than juveniles ages 15 to 17. In 2018, there were 30.5 simple assault victimizations per 1,000 juveniles ages 12 to 14 and 16.5 simple assault victimizations per 1,000 juveniles ages 15 to 17.

Serious Violent Victimization

The rates of serious violent crime (aggravated assault, robbery, and sexual violence) against juveniles declined from 1995 to 2018, but the rates did not change from 2015 to 2018 except for sexual violence. From 2015 to 2018, the rate of sexual violence against juveniles ages 12 to 17 increased from 1.0 victimization per 1,000 to 2.5 victimizations per 1,000. Sexual violence against juveniles ages 15 to 17 increased from 0.8 victimization per 1,000 in 2015 to 3.3 victimizations per 1,000 in 2018. In 2018, juveniles ages 12 to 17 had lower sexual violence victimization rates than young adults and higher sexual violence victimization rates than adults.

Table 1. Violent Victimization, by Type of Violence and Age of Victim

Crime type by age	Rate of victimization per 1,000 persons		
	1995	2015*	2018
Simple assault			
12–17	120.6†	22.4	23.6
12–14	141.2†	28.0	30.5
15–17	99.2†	16.9	16.5
18–29	83.1†	15.1	19.1‡
30 or older	30.0†	10.0	11.3
Aggravated assault			
12–17	31.5†	4.6	5.0
12–14	29.0†	4.3	5.5
15–17	34.2†	4.8	4.5
18–29	26.9†	4.0	6.0†
30 or older	8.4†	3.3	3.0
Robbery			
12–17	14.1†	2.7	2.8
12–14	14.6†	3.0	3.2
15–17	13.5†	2.4	2.4
18–29	11.4†	4.2	3.6
30 or older	4.7†	1.8	1.7
Sexual violence			
12–17	6.4†	1.0	2.5†
12–14	4.0†	1.1^	1.6
15–17	8.9†	0.8	3.3†
18–29	5.0†	3.1	4.6‡
30 or older	1.7†	0.9	1.3

Note: Data are based on 2-year rolling averages starting in 1994. Two-year rolling averages are means that were calculated based on information in the current and previous year. A 95% confidence level indicates the upper and lower limit of the population mean, and it is used to test differences between means. Coefficient of variation measures the statistical variability in the population mean, with higher values indicating higher variability.
*Comparison year.
†Significant difference from the comparison year at the 95% confidence level.
‡Significant difference from the comparison year at the 90% confidence level.
^Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.
Source: National Crime Victimization Survey Incident File, 1994–2018.

Reporting to Law Enforcement

From 1995 to 2018, the rate of juvenile violent victimizations reported to the police decreased from 38.7 per 1,000 to 7.8 per 1,000 (figure 2). In 2018, 23 percent of violent crimes against juveniles were reported to the police.

The percentage of violent crimes against juveniles reported to the police increased and subsequently decreased twice from 1995 to 2018. From 1995 to 2003, the percentage of violent crimes against juveniles reported to the police increased from 22 to 34 percent. The percentage of violent crimes against juveniles then decreased to 27 percent in 2008. From 2009 to 2011, this percentage increased to 34 percent and then fell to 23 percent in 2018.

In 2018, violent victimizations against juveniles were less likely to be reported to the police by the victim or someone else than violent victimizations against young adults (40 percent reported) and adults (51 percent reported). Juvenile victimizations were most often reported by a third party (i.e., someone other than the victim) (table 2). Of violent crimes against juveniles, 6 percent were reported to the police by the victim, whereas 27 percent of violent crimes against young adults and 35 percent of violent crimes against adults were reported to the police by the victim. Juveniles ages 15 to 17 (13 percent reported by victim) were

more likely than those ages 12 to 14 to report the crime themselves (1 percent reported by victim).

In 2018, 74 percent of violent victimizations against juveniles were not reported to the police (table 2). In general, juveniles ages 12 to 14 (81 percent) were less likely to report violent victimization to the police than those ages 15 to 17 (65 percent). Slightly less than half (48 percent) of violent crimes against juveniles not reported to the police were reported to some other authority (e.g., a school principal).

Figure 2. Violent Victimization Against Juveniles and Violent Victimization Against Juveniles Reported to the Police (2-Year Rolling Averages)
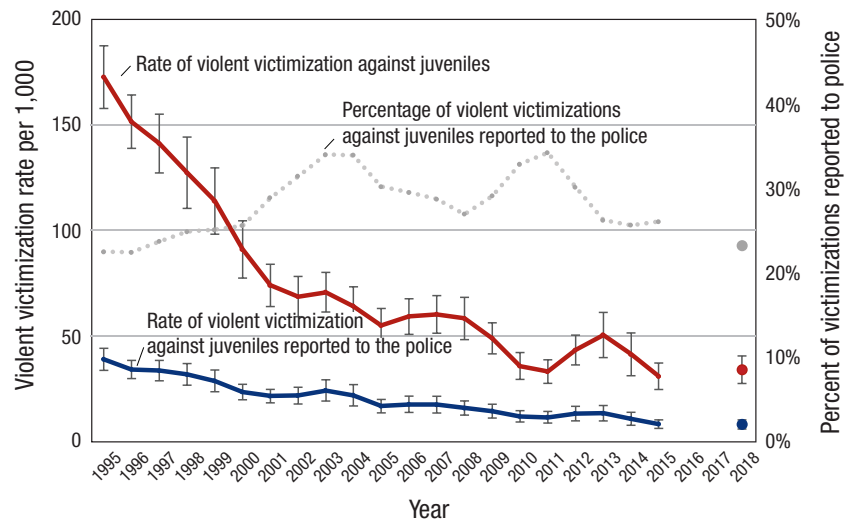
Note: Data based on 2-year rolling averages starting in 1994. Estimates for 2016 are omitted due to changes in the 2016 collection year's sampling procedures that prevent year-to-year comparisons. Data for 2018 are the 2-year average for 2017 and 2018.

Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, 1994–2018.

Table 2. Reporting Violent Crime to the Police, by Age of Victim, 2018

	Percent of violent victimizations				
	Juveniles		All Ages		
Reporting to police	12–14	15–17*	12–17*	18–29	30 or older
No report to police	80.7%†	64.7%	74.4%	58.7%†	47.2%†
Reported to other authority[a]	48.7	47.4	48.3	17.5†	17.8†
Reported to police by victim	1.3†^	13.2	6.0	26.8†	34.5†
Reported to police by third party or other way	16.0	18.9	17.2	12.7	16.5
Two-year total	1,020,023	664,266	1,684,289	3,514,976	6,798,917

Note: Data are based on a 2-year rolling average starting in 2017. Two-year rolling averages are means that were calculated based on information in the current and previous year. A 95% confidence level indicates the upper and lower limit of the population mean, and it is used to test differences between means. Coefficient of variation measures the statistical variability in the population mean, with higher values indicating higher variability. Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding or missing data. Comparison groups for statistical comparisons are different in the Juveniles (i.e., 15–17) and All Ages (i.e., 12–17) groups. Two-year totals are rounded to the nearest whole number.
[a]Reported to other authority indicates the percentage of unreported incidents that were reported to an authority other than the police.
*Comparison group.
†Significant difference from the comparison group at the 95% confidence level.
^Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.
Source: National Crime Victimization Survey Incident File, 1994–2018.

In 2018, non-Hispanic white juveniles had higher violent victimization rates than Hispanic juveniles. Non-Hispanic white juveniles ages 12 to 17 had a higher violent victimization rate (39.8 victimizations per 1,000) than Hispanic juveniles ages 12 to 17 (23.4 victimizations per 1,000). Juveniles ages 12 to 14 and those ages 15 to 17 showed the same pattern.

Urban-Rural Areas

From 1995 to 2018, juvenile violent victimization rates declined in urban, suburban, and rural areas (table 5). In all areas, the juvenile violent victimization rate remained stable from 2015 to 2018.

Trends in Violent Crime, by Victim Demographics

Gender

Between 1995 and 2018, violence against male and female juveniles ages 12 to 17 declined 80 percent and 81 percent, respectively, and gender differences in juvenile violent victimization rates became smaller. In 1995, male juveniles had higher rates of violent victimization than female juveniles. By 2015, the rates of violent crime against male and female juveniles did not differ.

From 2015 to 2018, male juveniles ages 12 to 14 experienced an increase in violent victimization, from 36.1 victimizations per 1,000 in 2015 to 58.0 victimizations per 1,000 in 2018 (up 61 percent) (table 3). Male juveniles ages 12 to 14 had a higher violent victimization rate than female juveniles ages 12 to 14 (23.0 victimizations per 1,000). Additionally, they had a higher violent victimization rate than male juveniles ages 15 to 17 (24.7 victimizations per 1,000).

Race/Hispanic Origin

The rate of violent victimization declined between 1995 and 2018 for all racial and age groups (table 4).

Table 3. Demographic Trends in Violent Crime, by Gender and Age of Victim

Gender by age	Rate of violent victimization per 1,000 persons		
	1995	2015*	2018
Male			
12–17	206.9†	30.7	41.4
12–14	224.1†	36.1	58.0‡
15–17	189.1†	25.3	24.7
18–29	141.4†	25.8	28.6
30 or older	50.9†	14.7	16.4
Female			
12–17	136.6†	30.7	25.9
12–14	151.9†	36.8	23.0
15–17	120.6†	24.6	28.9
18–29	111.6†	26.9	38.0†
30 or older	39.3†	17.0	18.2

Note: Data are based on 2-year rolling averages starting in 1994. Two-year rolling averages are means that were calculated based on information in the current and previous year. A 95% confidence level indicates the upper and lower limit of the population mean, and it is used to test differences between means.
*Comparison year.
†Significant difference from the comparison year at the 95% confidence level.
‡Significant difference from the comparison year at the 90% confidence level
Source: National Crime Victimization Survey Incident File, 1994–2018.

Table 4. Demographic Trends in Violent Crime, by Race and Age of Victim

Race/Hispanic origin by age	Rate of violent victimization per 1,000 persons		
	1995	2015*	2018
Non-Hispanic white			
12–17	176.3†	31.9	39.8
12–14	190.2†	36.3	49.8
15–17	161.6†	27.6	29.8
18–29	131.4†	30.2	38.3‡
30 or older	44.2†	15.0	17.6‡
Non-Hispanic black			
12–17	156.1†	32.8	35.2
12–14	179.2†	31.7	33.7
15–17	131.8†	33.7	36.6
18–29	122.3†	27.7	23.7
30 or older	48.6†	19.0	18.1
Non-Hispanic other/mixed race			
12–17	147.3†	44.4	25.5
12–14	162.1†	53.1	30.9^
15–17	133.0†	35.8	19.6
18–29	97.8†	22.5	30.4
30 or older	35.9†	21.5	17.7
Hispanic			
12–17	179.0†	22.0	23.4
12–14	194.2†	34.1	29.6
15–17	163.6†	9.7	17.1
18–29	108.9†	16.5	28.1†
30 or older	50.3†	15.3	15.2

Note: Data are based on 2-year rolling averages starting in 1994. Two-year rolling averages are means that were calculated based on information in the current and previous year. A 95% confidence level indicates the upper and lower limit of the population mean, and it is used to test differences between means. Coefficient of variation measures the statistical variability in the population mean, with higher values indicating higher variability. Racial and ethnic groups are defined by the Office of Management and Budget.
*Comparison year.
†Significant difference from the comparison year at the 95% confidence level.
‡Significant difference from the comparison year at the 90% confidence level.
^Interpret estimate with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases or the coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.
Source: National Crime Victimization Survey Incident File, 1994–2018.

Table 5. Demographic Trends in Violent Crime, by Urban-Rural Classification and Age of Victim

Urban-rural classification by age	Rate of violent victimization per 1,000 persons		
	1995	2015*	2018
Rural			
12–17	131.8†	40.5	50.4
12–14	155.7†	36.6	80.7
15–17	106.8†	44.4	21.4
18–29	101.1†	17.1	34.3†
30 or older	30.7†	12.8	16.1
Suburban			
12–17	178.8†	30.4	27.7
12–14	198.6†	37.7	29.9
15–17	158.1†	23.2	25.4
18–29	122.0†	26.5	28.3
30 or older	43.7†	14.7	14.8
Urban			
12–17	199.4†	26.2	37.7
12–14	201.8†	34.1	43.6
15–17	196.9†	18.1	31.7
18–29	146.5†	29.0	38.5†
30 or older	58.0†	19.6	22.2

Note: Data are based on 2-year rolling averages starting in 1994. Two-year rolling averages are means that were calculated based on information in the current and previous year. A 95% confidence level indicates the upper and lower limit of the population mean, and it is used to test differences between means. Urban-rural classifications are based on definitions provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. The U.S. Census Bureau is planning to reclassify these areas in the coming years.
*Comparison year.
†Significant difference from the comparison year at the 95% confidence level.
Source: National Crime Victimization Survey Incident File, 1994–2018.

Location of Victimization

NCVS data show that 61 percent of violent crimes against juveniles ages 12 to 17 occurred at school/work in 2018 (table 6), a percentage that was higher than that for young adults (24 percent) and adults (25 percent). Among juveniles, violent victimizations against those ages 12 to 14 (71 percent at school/work) were more likely than violent victimizations against those ages 15 to 17 to occur at school/work (47 percent).

Victim-Offender Relationship

NCVS data show that 54 percent of violent crimes against juveniles ages 12 to 17 in 2018 involved a known offender (i.e., 9 percent domestic violence and 45 percent acquaintance violence) (table 7). Violent crimes against

juveniles were most likely to involve a well-known/acquaintance offender (45 percent). Well-known/acquaintance violence was also more common in violent crimes against juveniles than violent crimes against young adults (20 percent) and adults (25 percent).

Violent crimes against juveniles were less likely than violent crimes against young adults and adults to involve domestic violence (i.e., family or intimate partner violence). Nine percent of violent crime against juveniles, 27 percent of violent crime against young adults, and 24 percent of violent crime against adults was domestic violence. Among juveniles, those ages 15 to 17 were more likely than those ages 12 to 14 to be victimized by domestic violence (16 percent and 4 percent, respectively).

Stranger violence was less prevalent in violent crimes against juveniles (31 percent) than in violent crimes against young adults ages 18 to 29 (46 percent).

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES IN THE JUVENILE POPULATION SAMPLE

The racial and ethnic composition of juveniles, urbanicity of households, and marital structure of households in the juvenile sample changed over the 25-year period. In 1995, non-Hispanic whites were the largest racial/ethnic group in the sample (70 percent), followed by non-Hispanic blacks (14 percent), Hispanics (12 percent), non-Hispanic Asians or other Pacific Islanders (3 percent), and non-Hispanic American Indians or Alaska Natives (1 percent). In 2018, the proportion of juveniles who were non-Hispanic white declined to 58 percent and the Hispanic proportion

increased to 23 percent. This shift made Hispanic juveniles the largest minority group in the 2018 sample.

The proportion of sampled juveniles residing in rural areas was higher in 1994–1995 (24 percent) compared to 2017–2018 (14 percent).

The proportion of sampled juveniles living with a head of household who had never married doubled between 1994–1995 (5 percent) and 2017–2018 (11 percent).

"NCVS data show that in 2018, 74 percent of violent victimizations against juveniles were not reported to the police."

Table 6. Location of Violent Crime, by Age of Victim, 2018

	Percent of violent victimizations				
	Juveniles		All Ages		
Location	12–14	15–17*	12–17*	18–29	30 or older
Residence	13.7%†	26.4%	18.7%	44.6%†	49.7%†
School/work	70.8†	46.8	61.4	23.7†	25.4†
Open area	12.9	12.7	12.9	13.8	11.8
Other location	2.6†	14.0	7.1	18.0†	13.1†
Two-year total	1,020,023	664,266	1,684,289	3,514,976	6,798,917

Note: Data are based on 2-year rolling averages starting in 2017. Two-year rolling averages are means that were calculated based on information in the current and previous year. A 95% confidence level indicates the upper and lower limit of the population mean, and it is used to test differences between means. Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding or missing data. Comparison groups for statistical tests are different in the Juveniles (i.e., 15–17) and All Ages (i.e., 12–17) groups. Average annual total is rounded to the nearest whole number.
*Comparison group.
†Significant difference from the comparison group at the 95% confidence level.
Source: National Crime Victimization Survey Incident File, 1994–2018.

Table 7. Victim-Offender Relationship for Violent Crimes, by Age of Victim, 2018

	Percent of violent victimizations				
	Juveniles		All Ages		
Victim-offender relationship	12–14	15–17*	12–17*	18–29	30 or older
Domestic violence	4.2%†	16.3%	8.9%	26.5%†	24.2%†
Well-known/acquaintance	51.0	35.5	45.1	19.6†	25.0†
Strangers	29.6	33.0	30.9	45.9†	39.0
Unknown	15.1	15.1	15.1	7.9	11.8
Two-year total	1,020,023	664,266	1,684,289	3,514,976	6,798,917

Note: Data are based on 2-year rolling averages starting in 2014. Two-year rolling averages are means that were calculated based on information in the current and previous year. A 95% confidence level indicates the upper and lower limit of the population mean, and it is used to test differences between means. For multiple offenders, relationship is defined as the closest relationship between the victim and the offender. Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding or missing data. Comparison groups for statistical tests are different in the Juveniles (i.e., 15–17) and All Ages (i.e., 12–17) groups. Two-year totals are rounded to the nearest whole number.
*Comparison group.
†Significant difference from the comparison group at the 95% confidence level.
Source: National Crime Victimization Survey Incident File, 1994–2018.

Weapon Use and Serious Injury

NCVS data show that 15 percent of violent crimes against juveniles involved a weapon in 2018 (table 8). About 3 percent of violence against juveniles involved a firearm, whereas about 11 percent of violence against young adults and 7 percent of violence against adults involved a firearm.

Firearms were more common in violence against juveniles ages 15 to 17 (5 percent) than violence against juveniles ages 12 to 14 (2 percent). About 3 percent of violent victimizations against juveniles involved serious injury to the victim, compared to 8 percent of violent victimizations against young adults and 6 percent of victimizations against adults.

Table 8. Weapon Use and Victim Injury in Violent Crime, by Age of Victim, 2018

	Percent of violent victimizations				
	Juveniles		All Ages		
Weapon and injury	12–14	15–17*	12–17*	18–29	30 or older
Weapon					
No weapon	84.1	77.7	81.6	67.7[†]	69.7[†]
Other weapon	10.8	13.9	12.0	12.4	15.1
Firearm	1.8	4.6[^]	2.9	11.2[†]	7.1[†]
Injury					
No injury	83.7	77.9	81.4	74.8[‡]	77.9
Bruises or cuts	12.1	17.4	14.2	16.1	15.2
Serious injury	2.0	3.8	2.7	8.0[†]	6.2[†]
Other injury	2.1	1.0	1.7	0.9	0.7
Two-year total	**1,020,023**	**664,266**	**1,684,289**	**3,514,976**	**6,798,917**

Note: Data are based on 2-year rolling averages starting in 2017. Two-year rolling averages are means that were calculated based on information in the current and previous year. A 95% confidence level indicates the upper and lower limit of the population mean, and it is used to test differences between means. Coefficient of variation measures the statistical variability in the population mean, with higher values indicating higher variability. Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding or missing data. Comparison groups for statistical tests are different in the Juveniles (i.e., 15–17) and All Ages (i.e., 12–17) groups. Average annual total is rounded to the nearest whole number. Serious injury includes other injuries requiring overnight hospitalization, sexual violence injuries, gunshot wounds, knife wounds, internal injuries, unconsciousness, and broken bones.
*Comparison group.
[†]Significant difference from the comparison group at the 95% confidence level.
[‡]Significant difference from the comparison group at the 90% confidence level.
[^]Interpret estimate with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases or the coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.
Source: National Crime Victimization Survey Incident File, 1994–2018.

National Incident-Based Reporting System

Location of Victimization

NIBRS data show that the most common location where violence against juveniles occurred in 2016 was at a residence (56 percent) (table 9). Violence at a residence was most common for juveniles age 11 or younger (70 percent). The second most common location of violence against juveniles was schools, where 16 percent of incidents took place. School violence was most common for juveniles ages 12 to 14 (24 percent) and least common for those age 11 or younger (8 percent).

Table 9. Location of Violent Crime, by Age of Victim, 2016

	Percent of violent victimizations					
	Juveniles			All Ages		
Location	11 or younger	12–14	15–17	17 or younger	18–29	30 or older
Residence	69.8%	48.0%	49.5%	56.2%	59.7%	63.7%
School	7.5	24.2	16.7	15.5	1.4	1.6
Open area	11.3	15.5	17.2	14.7	15.4	12.5
Other location	11.5	12.3	16.6	13.7	23.5	22.2
Total	77,755	59,096	86,784	223,635	466,310	712,117

Note: Incidents with four or more offenders are excluded. Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding or missing data. Statistical comparisons are omitted because the sample is not representative of the population. Only the year 2016 (the most recent year for which data are available) is analyzed because the number of agencies participating in the National Incident-Based Reporting System changes every year.
Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System Victim-Level Extract File, 2016.

NIBRS vs. NCVS

There are key differences between the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) and the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). NIBRS is based on crimes reported by law enforcement agencies. Unlike NCVS, crimes that do not come to the attention of the police are not included in NIBRS. Additionally, NIBRS was completely or partially implemented across only 38 states in the United States in 2016. Thus, NIBRS estimates cannot be generalized to the entire country. NIBRS includes crimes against children age 11 or younger, whereas NCVS does not collect data on this age group. Additionally, NIBRS captures crimes against persons who are homeless or live in institutions (e.g., nursing homes and correctional institutions) or on military bases, whereas NCVS does not.

Victim-Offender Relationship

Based on NIBRS data, juveniles were likely to know their offender (table 10). About 36 percent of juvenile violence was domestic violence, 41 percent was well-known/acquaintance violence, and 6 percent was stranger violence. Compared to other juvenile age groups, violence against those age 11 or younger was more likely to be domestic violence (50 percent) and less likely to be well-known/acquaintance violence (30 percent).

Weapon Use and Serious Injury

NIBRS data show that 16.7 percent of violence against juveniles involved a weapon (table 11). Firearms were less common in violence against juveniles age 17 or younger (6 percent) than violence against young adults (10 percent). Juveniles ages 15 to 17 (8 percent involved a firearm) were more likely than those ages 12 to 14 (4 percent involved a firearm) to be victims of firearm violence.

Roughly 31 percent of violence against juveniles age 17 or younger involved an injury to the victim. Juveniles age 17 or younger were less likely than young adults (44 percent injury) and adults (41 percent injury) to be injured during a violent crime. Juveniles ages 15 to 17 were the most likely out of all juvenile groups to sustain an injury (36 percent).

Table 10. Victim-Offender Relationship for Violent Crimes, by Age of Victim, 2016

| | Percent of violent victimizations | | | | | |
| | Juveniles | | | All Ages | | |
Victim-offender relationship	11 or younger	12–14	15–17	17 or younger	18–29	30 or older
Domestic violence	49.8%	27.7%	29.6%	36.1%	42.9%	45.1%
Well-known/acquaintance	29.5	49.7	44.3	40.6	29.7	28.1
Strangers	4.3	5.3	6.7	5.5	9.3	9.7
Missing data	16.5	17.3	19.4	17.8	18.2	17.2
Total	77,755	59,096	86,784	223,635	466,310	717,353

Note: Incidents with four or more offenders are excluded. Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding or missing data. Statistical comparisons are omitted because the sample is not representative of the population. Only the year 2016 (the most recent year for which data are available) is analyzed because the number of agencies participating in the National Incident-Based Reporting System changes every year.
Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System Victim-Level Extract File, 2016.

"NIBRS data indicate that about 36 percent of juvenile violence was domestic violence, 41 percent was well-known/acquaintance violence, and 6 percent was stranger violence."

Table 11. Weapon Use and Victim Injury in Violent Crime, by Age of Victim, 2016

| Weapon and injury | Percent of violent victimizations | | | | | |
| | Juveniles | | | All Ages | | |
	11 or younger	12–14	15–17	17 or younger	18–29	30 or older
Weapon						
No weapon	78.1%	81.5%	79.4%	79.5%	77.8%	78.9%
Other weapon	12.8	9.9	9.4	10.7	11.9	13.4
Firearm	5.5	4.0	7.7	6.0	9.7	7.1
Injury						
No injury	72.9%	69.1%	64.3%	68.6%	56.3%	59.5%
Minor injury	23.5	28.8	32.2	28.3	38.6	36.0
Serious injury	3.7	2.1	3.5	3.2	5.2	4.5
Total	**77,755**	**59,096**	**86,784**	**223,635**	**466,310**	**712,117**

Note: Incidents with four or more offenders are excluded. Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding or missing data. Statistical comparisons are omitted because the sample is not representative of the population. Only 2016 (the most recent year for which data are available) is analyzed because the number of agencies participating in the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) changes every year. Minor injuries are defined as a victim having only an "apparent minor injury" in the NIBRS data. Serious injuries include apparent broken bones, other major injury, possible internal injury, loss of teeth, severe laceration, or unconsciousness.
Source: National Incident-Based Reporting System Victim-Level Extract File, 2016.

National Vital Statistics System

Overall, homicides against juveniles increased from 2015 to 2017, but these changes varied by age and race/Hispanic origin. Homicides against juveniles age 17 or younger increased from 2.0 victimizations per 100,000 in 2015 to 2.2 victimizations per 100,000 in 2017 (table 12). Homicides against juveniles ages 15 to 17 increased from 4.6 victimizations per 100,000 in 2015 to 5.6 victimizations per 100,000 in 2017. From 2015 to 2017, homicides increased against male juveniles (from 2.7 victimizations per 100,000 to 2.9 victimizations per 100,000) and female juveniles (from 1.3 victimizations per 100,000 to 1.4 victimizations per 100,000). Homicides against non-Hispanic black juveniles increased from

6.2 victimizations per 100,000 juveniles in 2015 to 7.1 victimizations per 100,000 juveniles in 2017.

Juveniles ages 15 to 17 had the highest homicide victimization rates compared to the other juvenile age groups (11 or younger and 12 to 14) for all 3 years (2000, 2015, and 2017). Male juveniles had a juvenile homicide victimization rate twice as high as female juveniles from 2000 to 2017. Between 2000 and 2017, homicides against juveniles declined for most demographic groups, except for non-Hispanic blacks and non-Hispanic Native Americans/Alaska Natives. The juvenile homicide victimization rate for non-Hispanic blacks was higher than for all other racial groups from 2000 to 2017.

Table 12. Juvenile Homicide Victims, by Victim Demographics, from the National Vital Statistics System

Victim demographics	Rate of homicide victimizations per 100,000		
	2000	2015*	2017
Age			
17 or younger	2.6[†]	2.0	2.2[†]
11 or younger	1.9[†]	1.6	1.6
12–14	1.5[†]	0.9	0.9
15–17	6.7[†]	4.6	5.6[†]
Gender			
Male	3.5[†]	2.7	2.9[†]
Female	1.7[†]	1.3	1.4[‡]
Race/Hispanic origin			
Non-Hispanic white	1.4[†]	1.1	1.1
Non-Hispanic black	7.2[†]	6.2	7.1[†]
Non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islander	1.4[†]	0.6	0.7
Non-Hispanic Native American/Alaska Native	3.6	3.4	2.9
Hispanic	3.2[†]	1.6	1.7

Note: Data are based on 2-year rolling averages starting in 1999. Two-year rolling averages are means that were calculated based on information in the current and previous year. Crude rate indicates the rate at which homicides occur for juveniles by dividing the number of juvenile homicide victimizations by the number of juveniles in the population. This estimate is then multiplied by 100,000 to ease interpretation.
*Comparison year.
[†]Significant difference from the comparison year at the 95% confidence level.
[‡]Significant difference from the comparison year at the 90% confidence level.
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Multiple Cause of Death File 1999–2018, Series 20, No. 2J, 2007, available at https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html.

Endnotes

1. Victimization rates are calculated as the number of victimizations committed against a specific group during a specified time divided by the total population of the group at risk for those victimizations and multiplying by 1,000.
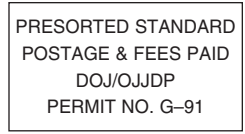
2. In this bulletin, significant differences are reported at both the 90 percent and 95 percent confidence levels. See the tables for testing specific estimates. Additionally, this bulletin uses 2-year averages to report its estimates from NCVS and NVSS, which are values calculated from averaging the estimates from 1 year (e.g., 2018) and the prior year (i.e., 2017).

References

National Archive of Criminal Justice Data. 2018. National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2016: Extract Files. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor]. Available at https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR37066.v1.

Bureau of Justice Statistics. 2020. National Crime Victimization Survey, Concatenated File [United States], 1992–2018. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor]. Available at https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR37322.v1.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics, Underlying Cause of Death 1999–2018 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 2020. Available at https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html.

Share With Your Colleagues

Please direct comments and/or questions to:

National Criminal Justice Reference Service
P.O. Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849–6000

800–851–3420
301–240–5830 (fax)
E-mail: responsecenter@ncjrs.gov
Web: www.ncjrs.gov

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office for Victims of Crime; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking.

NCJ 254796